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13 May 1964

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# CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

CURRENT INTELLIGENCE  
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\*Panama: [Marco Robles, the government candidate, has apparently been elected president of Panama.]

[Although final official figures are not yet available, Robles seems to have won with a plurality of approximately 10,000 votes in a total of around 300,000. His heavy plurality in most outlying provinces offset Arnulfo Arias' narrower than expected victories in Panama City and Colon.]

[Robles' pre-election deal with pro-Communist labor adviser Carlos Ivan Zuniga, who won election to the National Assembly, has thus paid off for both in the Chiriqui, Arias' home province. There is also reason to believe that Robles' last-minute campaign efforts attracted many voters away from Opposition Alliance (OA) candidate Juan de Arco Galindo, who ran a poor third. Pro-Castro deputy Thelma King of the OA went down to defeat in Colon, where Arias' slate apparently swept the board.]

[For the present, there is little evidence that the government rigged the election for Robles. There are, however, indications that many Arias backers may have been declared disqualified.]

[Panama City was quiet but tense yesterday, uncertain over what the unpredictable Arias might do in reaction to his defeat. His followers, however, seem to be disorganized and may be intimidated by the National Guard, which has so far handled the election in a professional manner.]

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Algeria-France: President Ben Bella, who has been pressing for greater participation in France's Algerian oil operations, may be on the verge of nationalizing them.

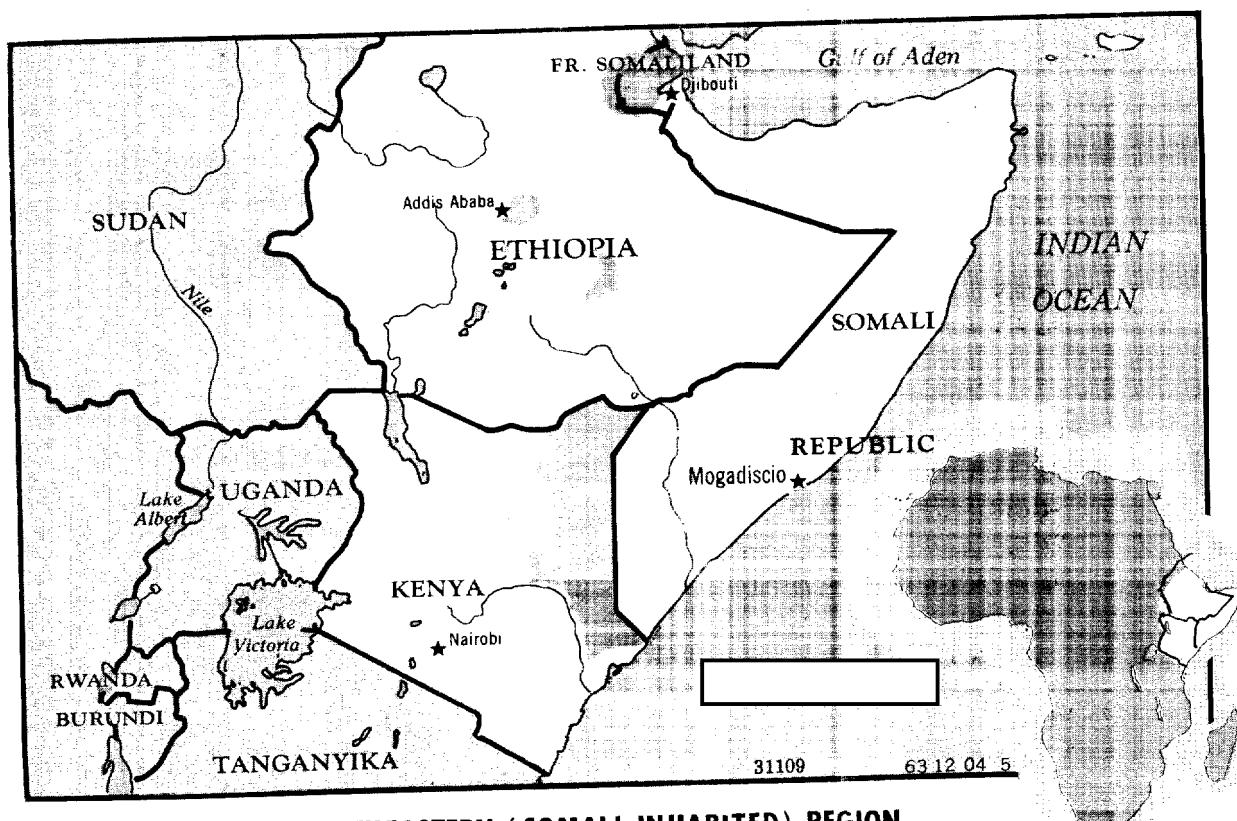
French-Algerian economic talks have been under way since early this year. The Algerians demand 51-percent ownership of oil installations, control over marketing arrangements, and repatriation of all proceeds from sale of Algerian oil abroad.

A new round in these negotiations began on 11 May. French officials have indicated that, although Paris would "give somewhat," it would not turn over to the Algerians a majority interest in all the French-Algerian companies.

Although nationalization might lead the French to cut off their economic aid--\$200 million this year--and would endanger Algeria's present \$50 million in annual oil revenues, Ben Bella and others in the Algerian Government are obsessed by a desire to break the French economic "stranglehold" over the country.

During his recent visit to Moscow, Ben Bella described the USSR as Algeria's "shield" against "imperialist" pressures. Probably at his request, Moscow has offered to set up a petroleum institute and to provide technical assistance. It is unlikely, however, that in the event of nationalization the USSR would be willing to provide Algeria with the quantities of aid now coming from France.

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KENYA: NORTHEASTERN ( SOMALI INHABITED ) REGION

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13 May 64 CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN Map

Kenya-Somalia: [The struggle between Kenya and Somalia for control of Kenya's Northeastern Region is sharpening.]

[Somali terrorists, abetted by the region's Somali inhabitants and sheltered and resupplied by the Somali Republic, are gradually increasing their effectiveness. They appear to have the edge over the available Kenya security forces, which are operating near the limit of their present capabilities.]

[In the past six months there have been 137 raids or ambushes in which 26 Kenya troops and 35 Kenya civilians have been killed. Over 1,000 armed terrorists are operating within Kenya. Their increasingly bold attacks now extend beyond the Northeastern Region.]

[Recent Somali broadcasts referring to the terrorists as the "National Liberation Army" have particularly disturbed Nairobi. Mogadiscio had earlier denied any connection with these armed raiders. To reassert its authority in the disaffected Somali areas, the Kenya cabinet has approved closing the border completely and removing all people--at least 10,000 nomads--and livestock from a fifty-mile-wide strip along the 450-mile border.]

[Somalia has already begun what appears to be a major propaganda attack on both Kenya and the UK. British officials still administer the region and British military personnel provide technical and logistical support for the Kenya forces. Mogadiscio may step up support of the insurgents after a new Somali government is formed later this month.]

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NOTES

\*Communist China - Canada: Peiping has contracted for an additional 1.1 million tons of Canadian wheat valued at \$84 million, bringing this year's purchases of Western grain to about 5 million tons. Delivery is scheduled for the second half of the year on terms similar to previous Sino-Canadian grain deals --25 percent cash and the balance over 18 months.

If excessive spring rains in central and north China persist, damage to grain crops may induce Peiping to buy more grain. Last year Peiping imported about 5.9 million tons of Western grain.

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